

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A countertop mounting base and bracket for releasably securing a napkin dispenser attached to the base comprising:

- 5 a) a base having a generally planar upper surface and a sidewall extending downwardly therefrom to define a hollow cavity and also define a stepped locking recess having an upper portion with a first recess width and a lower portion with a second recess width, where the upper locking recess width is smaller than the lower
10 locking recessed width, the base being further provided with a plurality of locking projections disposed in the hollow cavity having locking shoulders thereon each of which has a characteristic locking shoulder width;
- 15 b) a mounting bracket provided with means for securing it to the countertop and a raised central locking surface provided with a moveable tongue adapted to flex with respect to the locking surface from a locking position to a release position, the tongue being
20 provided with a stepped outer profile defining an outer width which is less than or equal to the upper recess width of the base and a locking width which is greater than the upper recess width of the base, the locking surface of the mounting bracket being further provided with a plurality of locking slots with open portions having
25 widths at least as great as the corresponding characteristic widths of locking shoulders of the locking projections of the base and elongated narrow portions having widths smaller than corresponding characteristic widths of locking shoulders of locking projections of the base; and
- 30 c) the base and mounting bracket being configured such that the locking projections of the base may be inserted into the open

5 portions of the locking slots and the base slid into the locking position with the bracket wherein the shoulders of the locking projections of the base are secured from vertical translation away from the locking position by the elongated narrow portions of the locking slots of the raised central locking surface of the mounting bracket and the base is prevented from horizontal translation away from the locking position by the locking width of the tongue until the tongue is flexed downwardly to its release position.

- 10 2. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, further comprising a post attached to the base for mounting a napkin dispenser.
3. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 2, used for mounting a gravity feed napkin dispenser.
- 15 4. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, wherein the mounting bracket is stamped from sheet metal.
5. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, wherein the base is cast from metal.
- 20 6. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 2 to about 10 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.
- 25 7. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 6, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 4 to about 6 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.

8. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, further comprising biasing means to urge the base and bracket into engagement with each other in the locking position.
- 5 9. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 8, wherein the biasing means are upperwardly raised portions defined on the bracket and downwardly projecting ridges on the base located within the hollow cavity thereof.
- 10 10. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, wherein the upper portion of the stepped locking recess of the base has a generally L-shaped profile.
- 15 11. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 10, wherein the lower portion of the stepped locking recess of the base has a generally L-shaped profile.
- 20 12. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 1, wherein the stepped outer profile of the tongue is generally L-shaped.
- 25 13. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 12, wherein the outer edge of the tongue is arcuate in shape.
- 30 14. A countertop mounting base and bracket for releasably securing a napkin dispenser comprising:
- a) a base having (i) a generally planar upper surface and a sidewall extending downwardly therefrom to define (ii) a hollow cavity wherein there is provided (iii) a plurality of downwardly extending vertical ribs including (iv) at least two longitudinally extending mounting ribs each of which is provided with (v) at least one

- engagement ridge thereon, (vi) said sidewall defining a stepped locking recess having an upper portion with a first recess width and a lower portion with a second recess width, where the upper recess width is smaller than the lower recess width, the base being provided with (vii) a plurality of locking projections in the hollow cavity having locking shoulders thereon each of which has a characteristic locking shoulder width;
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- b) a mounting bracket provided with (viii) means for securing it to the countertop as well as (ix) at least two longitudinal guide tracks each of which has at least one raised engagement portion for interacting with the engagement ridges of the mounting ribs of the base (x) a raised central locking surface between the longitudinal guide tracks provided with (xi) a moveable tongue adapted to flex with respect to the locking surface from a locking position to a release position, the tongue being provided with (xii) a stepped outer profile defining an outer width which is less than or equal to the upper recess width of the base and a locking width which is greater than the upper recess width of the base, the locking surface of the mounting bracket being further provided with (xiii) a plurality of locking slots with open portions having widths at least as great as the corresponding characteristic widths of locking shoulders of the locking projections of the base and elongated narrow portions having widths smaller than corresponding characteristic widths of the locking shoulders of the locking projections of the base; and
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- c) the base and mounting brackets being configured such that the locking projections of the base may be inserted into the open portions of the locking slots and the base slid into the locking position with the bracket wherein the shoulders of the locking
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5 projections of the base are secured from vertical translation away from the locking position by the elongated narrow portions of the locking slots of the raised central locking surface of the mounting bracket and the base is prevented from horizontal translation away from the locking position by the locking width of the tongue until the tongue is flexed downwardly to its release position.

10 15. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the engagement ridges of the base and the raised engagement portions of the mounting bracket urge the mounting bracket and the base into engagement with each other.

15 16. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 15, wherein the raised engagement portions of the mounting bracket are raised arcuate portions of the guide tracks of the mounting bracket.

17. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, further comprising a post attached to the base for mounting the napkin dispenser.

20 18. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 17, used for mounting a gravity feed napkin dispenser.

25 19. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the mounting bracket is stamped from sheet metal.

20. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the base is cast from metal.

30 21. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 2 to about 10 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.

22. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 21, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 4 to about 6 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.
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23. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the upper portion of the stepped locking recess of the base has a generally L-shaped profile.
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24. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 23, wherein the lower portion of the stepped locking recess of the base has a generally L-shaped profile.
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25. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the stepped outer profile of the tongue is generally L-shaped.
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26. The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 14, wherein the base further includes a pair of guide ridges configured to cooperate with a pair of guide slots in the mounting bracket on either side of the tongue of the mounting bracket in order to orient the base with respect to the mounting bracket as the base and mounting bracket are engaged to each other.